From: Domenech, Douglas

To: Nancy Guiden; Scott Hommel; Daniel Jorjani; James Cason: Megan Bloomgren; Mashburn, Lori

Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report for 3/13/17

Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 1:41:24 PM

Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 3-13-17.docx

Attached and Copied Below.

#### DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/13/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

#### **Status of the Nominee**

The Secretary will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week.

The Secretary will resume his travel in Montana and Wyoming Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

## HEADS UP: Major Sportsman Conservation Announcement POSSIBLE POTUS

**ANNOUCEMENT.** In mid-to-late March, the Department of the Interior will announce the distribution of \$1.1 billion in revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts to states, territories and District of Columbia. The funding, which supports critical state wildlife conservation and recreation projects throughout the nation, is generated by excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, fishing equipment and motorboat fuels paid by the hunting, shooting, boating and angling industries. The money goes to states. Interior is inquiring whether there is interest in coordinating the announcement.

## **Executive Orders**

The Department is awaiting:

EO on Energy (several?)

**EO** on National Monuments

**Potential Announcement:** "Secretary Zinke Reverses Decision that Denied Atlantic Seismic G&G Permits -- New Directive Allows Consideration of Permit Applications to Continue."

Will this conflict with any upcoming EO?

NO CHANGE: The Department is preparing plans to release these energy related

## Actions

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- Reopening National Petroleum Reserve Alaska
- Reinitiating Quarterly Onshore Leasing Program
- Lifting Moratoriums on Offshore Energy
- Restarting a new Five Year OCS Plan
- Financial Assurance Notice to Lessees (NTL) Policy Review
- Well Control Rule Withdrawal
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- Atlantic Seismic Survey Activities
- Endangered Species Act Review and Reform
- Reverse Compensatory Mitigation
- National Monuments: Review

## **Congressional Action Under the CRA** (No change)

**CRAs:** Pending WH Action.

• BLM Planning 2.0 Rule. (b)(5) DPP

**CRAs:** Passed the House, Pending in the Senate.

- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule
- FWS H.J.Res.69 Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska".

## **Secretary Meetings and Schedule**

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Further out.
3/31: Participate in the 100 <sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. The Danish Prime Minister will participate.
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Emergency Management
In North Dakota, clean-up activity on the former Sacred Stone and Black Hoop campsites is nearing completion. All Non-BIA Federal law enforcement officers departed Standing Rock on March 10, while some BIA law enforcement officers will remain at Standing Rock through the end of the month or until the Office of Justice Services determines that there is no longer need.
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# Visiting Glacier National Park, Secretary Zinke Vows To Reorganize Department For 21st Century.

The Flathead (MT) Beacon (3/10, Franz) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's first official trip from Washington D.C. was to Glacier National Park on March 10. Zinke met with National Park Service employees "to talk about his hopes and goals for the next four years." According to the article, "chief among those priorities is a '21st century reorganization' of the Department of Interior." He said, "We need to be bold and look at what the Department of Interior will be 100 years from now."

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Federal Agencies Blasted For Twin Metals Decisions. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/11, Loon, Melander), Doug Loon, president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Harry Melander, president of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council, write that the decisions by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on a mine proposed by Twin Metals Minnesota." dealt two sharp blows to regional economic and job creation efforts supported by a broad coalition of labor, industry and community members." They call the moves an "arbitrary action" that "renders irrelevant the rigorous, longstanding public process in place to review environmental and other effects of development proposals under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and equally tough state statutes." They also note that "a new era of copper-nickel mining and other potential projects in the withdrawal area would bring thousands of high-paying, long-term mining jobs, as well as thousands of spinoff and construction jobs, according to estimates from the University of Minnesota-Duluth."

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## White House Communications Report

## **Inquiries**

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## **Top Stories**

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